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CERTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT AS FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 10, 2003.

Name: Esther Lily C. Esguerra

Signature:

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of  
JAMES, et al.  
Application No.: 09/964,930  
Filed: September 26, 2001  
For: BENTONITE NODULES

) Group Art Unit: 3673  
)  
) Examiner: KRECK, J.J.  
)  
) Confirmation No. 2190  
)  
)  
)

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following extension of time is requested to respond to the Office Action mailed on April 1, 2003 :

**F E E**

[X] three months to [ ] \$465.00 (2253) [X] \$930.00 (1253)

[ ] The shortened statutory period has been reset by an Advisory Action dated \_\_\_\_\_.

[X] An extension fee in the amount of \$ 930.00 is enclosed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

09/16/2003 5010A551 00000064 09964930

09/16/2003

930.00 DP

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 10, 2003

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